

Docket No. 071949-1314  
Patent**REMARKS**

The invention relates to devices for conducting assays, including qualitative, semi-quantitative and quantitative determinations of a plurality of analytes in a single test format. Following entry of the instant amendment, claims 74, 75, 77-90, 92-96 and 98-113 will be pending.

In response to the Examiner's indication that claim 76 would be allowable, Applicant has cancelled claim 76 and incorporated its "width dimension substantially perpendicular" limitation into claim 74. To avoid duplication between claim 74 and claim 101, the latter has been amended to refer to a non-absorbent "hydrophilic surface region." Support for this limitation is found, for example, in the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 27 ("hydrophilic regions"). Accordingly, the amendments raise no issue of new matter.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so that they may be resolved without the need for an additional action.

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 4, 2004By Barry S. Wilson

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Customer Number: 30542  
Telephone: (858) 847-6722  
Facsimile: (858) 792-6773

Barry S. Wilson  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 39,431